



# BLM NEWS

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Fairbanks District Office

Release No. FDO-071106

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For Immediate Release

July 11, 2006

## **Campaign against Invasive Plants Begins on Dalton Highway**

FAIRBANKS, AK – A pretty, white daisy is one of two invasive plant species targeted by the Bureau of Land Management's first annual Dalton Highway Weed Pull, which started yesterday on the Dalton Highway between Yukon Crossing and Coldfoot.

The one-week project involves more than 20 people including BLM and National Park Service employees, volunteers from Friends of Alaska's Refuges, and an 8-person Tribal Civilian Community Corps crew.

This year the weed-pullers are focusing on white sweetclover and oxeye daisy, two invasive species that have begun to make inroads north of the Yukon River.

"We will be getting rid of these plants the old-fashioned way, weeding them with basic tools, bagging them up and incinerating them," said Jeff Heys, one of the project leaders and a statewide invasive plants coordinator for the National Park Service.

"These two species are in a stage where we can actually control them in certain areas," Heys said. "They're two of the worst species moving into the Arctic right now."

The oxeye daisy is included in many wildflower seed mixes but often spreads from flower beds into the wild, where it crowds out native species and serves as a host for a variety of plant diseases.

White sweetclover has already blanketed thousands of acres of Alaska's wilderness rivers. In recent years, the white spikes of this species' flowers have become widespread in the Fairbanks area, and dense stands are moving their way northward on the Dalton Highway, with small populations beyond the Arctic Circle.

For more information, contact Ruth Gronquist, BLM, or Jeff Heys, NPS, at 678-5209. Information on invasive plants in Alaska is available on the website of the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management at [www.cnipm.org](http://www.cnipm.org).

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